



Whip Round Up

From the Office of the Assistant Democratic Leader



May 21, 2004

Volume Six

Issue Fifteen

Reid for Nevada

Reid, Ensign Work to Resolve Rural Land Conflict

- Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign introduced bipartisan legislation that would settle a long-standing trespass issue in the historic mining communities of Lone and Gold Point. Citizens who have made improvements on public land will no longer have to worry about their right to use the land, and all historic and cultural resources contained in the town sites will be preserved and protected.

Senator Reid Continues Fight to Lower Gas Prices

- Senator Reid expressed his outrage over spiraling gas prices in Nevada, and charged that greed on the part of oil companies and refineries is driving the steep increases. On the Senate floor this week, Reid discussed the hardships Nevadans are facing due to a 58-cent increase in the price of a gallon of gas. Senator Reid will keep working for an energy strategy that protects consumers and meets our energy needs for the future. More information can be found on his website at: <http://reid.senate.gov/gasprices0504.cfm>

Working in the Silver State

- Senator Reid will be working in Nevada during the Senate recess next week. He will meet with firefighters, gaming officials, a PTA group, state school superintendents, and will lead the Western Water Vision forum. He also is scheduled to make remarks at a Memorial Day ceremony at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Working with Nevadans

- Senator Reid received the Founders Award from the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees Association.
- Nevada Safari Club Members met with Senator Reid in his Capitol office while they were visiting Washington D.C. this week to discuss public lands and conservation issues.
- Senator Reid met with Las Vegas Air Traffic Controllers to discuss their concerns about future staffing of air traffic controllers.
- Henderson Mayor Jim Gibson, council members and other city officials met with Senator Reid while they were visiting Washington D.C. this week.
- Nevada AIDS Watch 2004 representatives, Lane Olson and Tracy Skinner, met with Senator Reid to ask for funding for AIDS research.
- After-School Alliance members met with the Senator to thank him for support and asked for continued funding for their program.
- Las Vegas resident Judy Montgomery from the Medical Group Management Association met with Senator Reid to discuss Medicare physicians' reimbursement.



Reid's Words

This week marked the 50th Anniversary of the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education ruling, which outlawed segregation in our public schools. Today our nation is stronger because of our commitment to give every child an equal opportunity to get a good education.



Senator Harry Reid receives an award Lt. General Billy Thomas, immediate past president of the Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees Association. The award recognized Senator Reid for his ongoing work to end the ban of concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and disability benefits.

Week in Review

- Consideration of 2005 Defense Bill Stalls** - The Senate began consideration of the 2005 Defense Authorization Bill this week, but debate stalled over Senator Lindsay Graham's amendment on the classification of high level waste. More than 100 amendments remain pending, including those pertaining to Iraq, missile defense, troop strength and the war on terrorism. Despite the urgency of these issues, Majority Leader Bill Frist indicated that upon returning from the May recess, the Senate would set aside the defense bill and turn to Class Action Reform legislation.
- Budget Vote Postponed** - The Senate continues to operate without a 2005 Budget Resolution as Republican leaders put off an expected vote this week because they did not have enough support to win adoption of the budget conference report. Several Republican moderates still oppose the measure because budget negotiators weakened the pay-as-you-go provisions, which would have required offsets or a super-majority for further spending increases or tax cuts. The markup of appropriations bills will continue under the parameters of the FY 04 Budget Resolution.

INSIDER'S CALENDAR

- The Senate is in recess through Memorial Day. The Senate will convene Tuesday, June 1, at 10:00 a.m., with a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.
- The Senate will recess from 12:30-2:15 p.m., for the Republican Party conference.
- At 2:15 p.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2062, the Class Action bill, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided between the Chairman and Ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.
- The Senate will vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the Class Action bill at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
- During the remainder of the week, the Senate may resume consideration of the Department of Defense Authorization bill.